



The President's Daily Brief

January 6, 1977

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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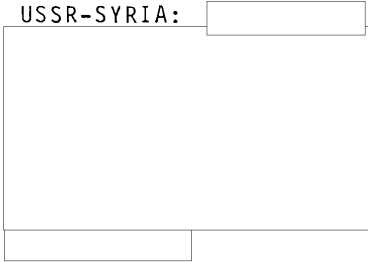
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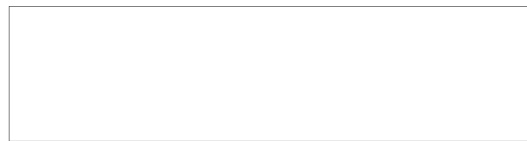
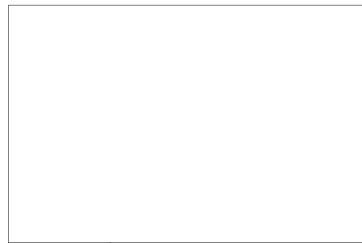


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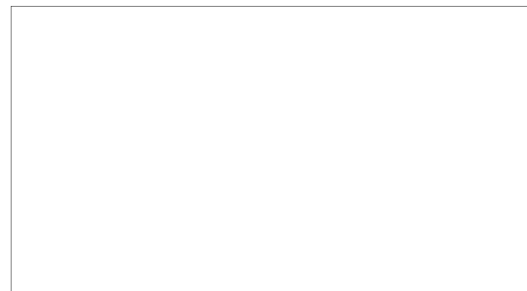
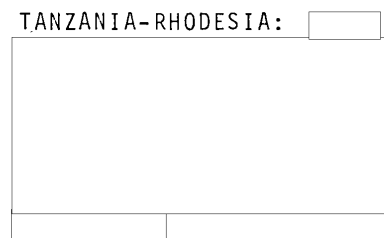
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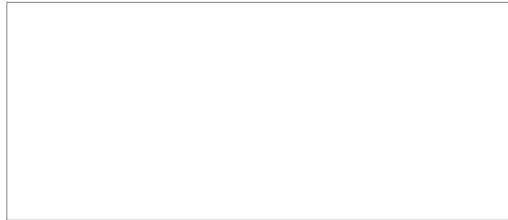
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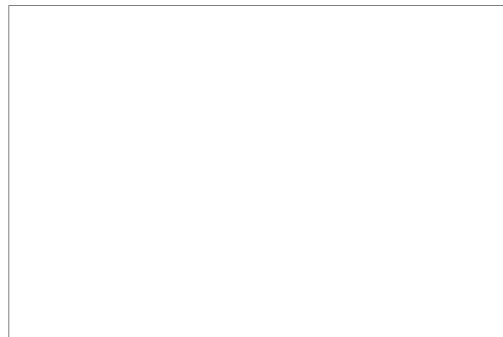
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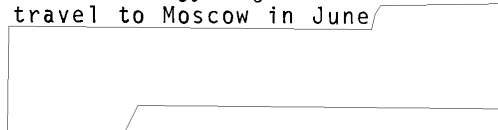
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USSR-IRAN: *The USSR is attempting to expand its role in Iran to include help in developing nuclear power.*



the two sides have signed a protocol on peaceful nuclear cooperation which includes the possible Iranian purchase of Soviet uranium enrichment services and technical assistance on nuclear fuel fabrication. The president of Iran's atomic energy organization will travel to Moscow in June

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Iran is now the largest customer for Soviet industrial equipment in the Third World. The Soviets have more than \$1 billion in construction contracts and are negotiating an expansion of the Soviet-built steel plant at Isfahan

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and participation in the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to Western Europe. Several months ago the two sides signed a \$3 billion trade agreement.

The expansion of economic ties has recently been matched by positive political signals.

Following Iran's decision to return a Soviet defector late last year and to permit a port call by Soviet warships and overflights by TU-95 naval reconnaissance aircraft, the political climate has improved significantly.

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NOTES

The record grain crop confirmed yesterday by the USSR--223.8 million tons--can be attributed primarily to good weather and to some improvements in organizing the harvest.

The 1976 crop compares with the previous record of 222.5 million tons in 1973 and the decade low of 140 million tons in 1975.

As in the past, the 1976 crop will presumably be subject to post-harvest losses. These derive from the high moisture content of Soviet wheat and consequent damage and deterioration in the course of transportation and storage.

Despite the good harvest, the USSR purchased 12.6 million tons of grain in 1976. These purchases were required partly because of the poor crop in 1975; 6.4 million tons were bought under the US-USSR long-term grain agreement which commits the Soviets to buy at least 6 million tons of US grain annually until 1980.

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Another Cuban convoy left for Angola toward the end of December.

This convoy--the sixth since May 1976--consisted of four ships. Earlier convoys completed their crossing in 15-20 days, and this group should arrive in Angolan waters around mid-January. We do not know what troops or cargo the ships may be carrying.

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